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Seventy-third year

Letter dated 6 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instructions of my Government, I enclose herewith the statement of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia on the 30th anniversary of the Sumgait pogroms (see annex I) and the statement of the National Assembly of the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) on the 30th anniversary of the massacre of the Armenian population of Sumgait (see annex II), both of which were adopted on 28 February 2018.

Thirty years have passed since the anti-Armenian pogroms in Sumgait, an Azerbaijani city the name of which has become to many Armenians an embodiment of horror, mass atrocities and dehumanizing crimes.

The pogroms perpetrated in Sumgait from 27 to 29 February 1988, mark the beginning of massacres and ethnic cleansing of the Armenian population, carried out subsequently in the cities of Baku, Kirovabad and other settlements in Soviet Azerbaijan, as well as in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The premeditated massacre in Sumgait was the reaction of Azerbaijan to the legitimate, constitutional, democratic and peaceful process in the exercise of the right to self-determination by the people of Nagorno-Karabakh. Those atrocities were the very reason that prompted the late Nobel Peace Prize laureate Andrei Sakharov to assert that, "even if some doubted it before Sumgait, no one sees a moral opportunity to insist on the territorial unity of Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan after this tragedy happened". On 7 July 1988, the European Parliament adopted a resolution condemning the massacres in Sumgait.

Azerbaijan's attempts to conceal those atrocities are a shameful manifestation of denial and failure to assume responsibility. The authorities of Azerbaijan spare no effort to obscure and manipulate facts and to shield the masterminds and perpetrators of the atrocities against the Armenian population of Sumgait. The joint statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan of 22 February 2018 on the so-called investigation into the Armenian pogroms in the city of Sumgait, the content of which represents outright absurdity, is at the same time a blatant whitewash of the acts of the then leadership of Azerbaijan. It is also a stark

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manifestation of the policy of anti-Armenian hatred and xenophobia, which has become the modus operandi of Azerbaijan since 1988.

It is this kind of anti-Armenian propaganda that has incited continuous atrocities against Armenians, including the gross violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed by the armed forces of Azerbaijan during the aggression against Nagorno-Karabakh in April 2016. The cultivation of hatred and xenophobia against Armenians has become a consistent practice in Azerbaijan. Reputable international bodies, including from within the United Nations and the Council of Europe, have consistently reported such policies.

Today, we pay tribute to the memory of the innocent victims of Sumgait and resolutely condemn any manifestation of racism, discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance. We also pay tribute to those individual Azerbaijanis who had not succumbed to anti-Armenian hysteria and risked their lives by rescuing their Armenian neighbours.

I kindly request that the present letter and its annexes be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Zohrab **Mnatsakanyan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex I to the letter dated 6 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia on the 30th anniversary of the Sumgait pogroms

Acknowledging that 30 years ago the Sumgait pogroms were planned and perpetrated by the Azerbaijani authorities, and were yet another manifestation of Azerbaijan's consistent policy of extradition and extermination of the Armenian people from its cradle, which has commenced with the establishment of Azerbaijan in 1918 through the massacres of Armenians, particularly in Baku — 30,000 (1918) and Shushi — 20,000 (1920), then continued in the Soviet era through the forcible eviction of Armenians of Nakhijevan and other regions, as well as repressions against the Armenians of Artsakh; that this process gained momentum, particularly, with the massacres committed against the Armenians in Sumgait, Baku and Gandzak (Kirovabad) from 1988 to 1991, and, since 1991, with the large-scale aggression against Artsakh, involving thousands of mercenaries, closely related to the international terrorist organizations, the ethnic cleansings and deportations of 22 Armenian villages through "Koltso" (Ring) military operation in 1991, killings of elderly, women and children living in Maragha village of Artsakh in 1992, the occupation and de-Armenization of the Shahumyan region and part of Martakert region in 1992, killing of the population of the town of Khojaly near Aghdam committed by the Azerbaijani armed groups with the aim of using it for the internal power struggle in Azerbaijan and attributing it to the Armenians, the glorification of those who committed crimes against Armenians, disseminating of anti-Armenian hatred and intolerance, the annihilation of the Armenian historical-cultural heritage, falsification of history, violation of the 1994–1995 trilateral ceasefire agreements, which have no time limitation, and subversive penetrations, killing of peaceful population and the military personnel, targeted bombings of civilian infrastructure, the new large-scale aggression against Artsakh in April 2016, which was accompanied with the gross violations of the international humanitarian law, namely, killings of children, women and elderly, mutilation of corpses of soldiers, beheadings of captured Armenian soldiers in the style of terrorist groups,

Acknowledging the fact, that in response to the peaceful demands of the people of Artsakh, who were under threat of ethnic cleansing, de-Armenization and physical extermination, to realise, in accordance with the norms and principles of international law and in line with the existing at that time legislation, one of the fundamental principles of international law, namely, the equality and self-determination of peoples, the Azerbaijani authorities perpetrated anti-Armenian violence, pogroms and deportations, accompanied with the extreme anti-Armenian state-sponsored propaganda, which has made the existence of Armenians in Azerbaijan impossible,

Stating that the Azerbaijani authorities, opposing the efforts of the international community and the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, undermine the negotiation process on the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and continue to rely on the use of force and threat of force,

The National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia

Condemns the massive violence, murders and deportations of peaceful population by Azerbaijan, as well as the Armenophobic, racist policy and the aggressive military actions unleashed against Nagorno-Karabakh;

Commemorates the innocent victims of Azerbaijani crimes against Armenians;

Calls on the Parliaments and the Parliamentary Assemblies, the international organizations and human rights bodies:

– ***to condemn*** the committed and ongoing atrocities of Azerbaijan against the peaceful population as well as the violations of the humanitarian law which threaten not only the Armenian people, but also the security, stability and development of the whole region;

– ***to undertake*** practical steps to prevent them.

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Annex II to the letter dated 6 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

National Assembly of the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh)

Statement on the 30th anniversary of the massacre of the Armenian population of Sumgait

On 27–29 February 1988, atrocities against and forced deportation of the Armenian population was carried out by the Azerbaijani authorities in Sumgait, just 30 kilometers from Baku. Hundreds of Armenians, mostly women, children and elderly people, fell victim to a pre-planned massacre; thousands of Armenians were forcibly deported and their property — plundered.

The crime committed in Sumgait was another manifestation of the policy of discrimination, ethnic cleansing and expulsion of Armenian people, which, following the example of Nakhichevan, was carried out with impunity by the Azerbaijani authorities during the Soviet period. It later continued in Baku, Gandzak (Kirovabad) and other Armenian settlements of Northern Artsakh. By these atrocities, the Baku authorities threatened the Artsakh Armenians who stood to defend their rights, and keeping the Armenians of Eastern Transcaucasia as a hostage.

Meanwhile, the national liberation struggle that was unfolding in Artsakh in those days was called to put an end to the infringements of national dignity of the Armenian people and the genocidal policy of the Azerbaijani authorities.

Paying tribute to the memory of the innocent Armenians who fell victim to the genocide in Sumgait and being convinced that the impunity for the pogroms and massacre of the Armenian population organized at state level led to new crimes and a war by Azerbaijan against the people of the newly independent Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, the National Assembly of the Artsakh Republic:

condemns any manifestation of discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance;

believes that official Baku continues to pursue a policy of genocide, the latest evidence of which were crimes committed against the civilian population of Artsakh in April 2016;

reaffirms that the Artsakh Republic will be consistent in restoring and protecting the rights of Azerbaijani Armenians who were exposed to violence and deportation;

urges parliamentary structures and international human rights organizations, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of mass pogroms and atrocities against the Armenian population of Sumgait, to condemn the genocidal acts committed by Baku against the Armenians of Azerbaijan.

28 February 2018
Stepanakert

United Nations A/72/781

General Assembly

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Seventy-second session
Agenda item 68
Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Letter dated 23 February 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to write to inform you of the Buenos Aires Declaration on Child Labour, Forced Labour and Youth Employment, adopted on 16 November 2017 at the Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour, available at http://www.ilo.org/washington/WCMS_597667/lang--en/index.htm.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 68.

(*Signed*) Martín **García Moritán**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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General Assembly
Seventy-second session
Agenda item 65
Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

Security Council
Seventy-third year

Letter dated 1 March 2018 from the Permanent Representatives of Germany, Namibia and Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Spain, together with Germany and Namibia, has the honour to transmit herewith the Technical Operative Guidelines of the Women and Peace and Security Focal Points Network, agreed upon in December 2017 (see annex).

We also take this opportunity to inform you that Germany has taken over the annual chairmanship of the Focal Points Network, as of January 2018. Spain and Namibia, as the outgoing and next Chairs, respectively, are part of the Network's troika.

We should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 65, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Christoph **Heusgen**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Neville Melvin **Gertze**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Jorge **Moragas**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 1 March 2018 from the Permanent Representatives of Germany, Namibia and Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Women and Peace and Security Focal Points Network Technical Operative Guidelines December 2017

Background and objectives

The Women and Peace and Security Focal Points Network was created to assist Member States and regional organizations to improve and strengthen the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda at the origin of decision-making processes. The initiative stems from a commitment made by Spain during the high-level review of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), which was held in October 2015. The founding meeting of the Network was organized by Spain in September 2016, with the co-sponsorship of Canada, Chile, Japan, Namibia and the United Arab Emirates.

The Network affirms that Member States, regional organizations and the United Nations are the most influential actors in the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda and have the primary responsibility for ensuring that global commitments and obligations are effectively integrated into domestic policies and legislation.

The Network serves as a cross-regional forum and provides space in which to share experiences and best practices so as to advance the implementation of all Security Council resolutions on women and peace and security and to improve the coordination of funding and assistance programmes. The Network also encourages information flow with relevant forums, such as the Security Council Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security and the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security.

Membership and actors

Membership of the Network is open and all Member States and regional organizations are encouraged to become members and assign a focal point to the Network.

Current Network membership includes 78 focal points.[1]

Members nominate themselves for the chairmanship. In any given year, the incumbent, previous and next Chairs constitute the troika, which is responsible for providing guidance to the Network on operational and substantive issues. Spain

[1] Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, African Union, Economic Community of West African States, European Union, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and Union for the Mediterranean.

served as Chair in 2017. Germany will chair the Network in 2018 and Namibia in 2019.

The Network will meet once a year in one of its member States, the meeting generally being hosted by the incumbent Chair, with at least one additional follow-up meeting in New York.

Membership requests will be received by the secretariat of the Network and shared with the wider Network. Focal points are expected to exercise a leading role in women and peace and security efforts at the national and regional levels and to maintain direct and ongoing contact with other focal points in order to advance the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda.

The Network also recognizes civil society and local organizations as critical partners and will ensure their substantive participation in Network meetings and initiatives.

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) serves as the secretariat of the Network and will assign a coordinator to manage that function. The secretariat provides technical and operational support to the troika and the Network. It will ensure regular communication with and the flow of information to Network members, manage knowledge products of the Network, support the planning of meetings and foster membership, advocacy and partnerships.

The troika will meet regularly with the secretariat to set timelines for the Network's actions to be carried out and to ensure that the goals of the Network are fulfilled.

Focus areas

Through regular engagement with focal points, the Network will promote momentum and continuity in the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda at the national and regional levels. The Network areas of focus include:

- Raising gender equality as a matter of women's rights and a means to enhance peace and security.
- Promoting a gender perspective in all peace and security efforts and ensuring that a gender-responsive approach also includes a focus on men's gender roles, abuse against men and men's responsibility for promoting women's influence in peace and security.
- Promoting the development of high-impact national and regional action plans and strategies on women and peace and security.
- Integrating gender analysis in all security assessments and prevention approaches, including early warning, preventive diplomacy and peacekeeping;
- Strengthening women's participation, including at a high level, in the security sector and peace and political processes, such as peace agreements, implementation, reconciliation and reintegration, and mediation efforts.
- Addressing conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence and other gender-based violations of rights and strengthening services and access to justice in response to such violations.
- Addressing existing and emerging security threats, such as violent extremism, terrorism and climate change.
- Promoting capacity-building at the local, national and regional levels for a variety of actors.

As a cross-cutting issue, the Network will aim to promote sustained and predictable funding for women and peace and security efforts, which constitute a cross-cutting issue.

Role of members

Network members are expected to share updates and progress on their women and peace and security actions through the Network's newsletter and at its meetings of the Network. Members are also encouraged to promote the Network and its objectives at relevant forums where the women and peace and security agenda can be advanced.

Communication

A newsletter will include, as appropriate, updates on proceedings of the Network, member action, innovation in policy and practice, as well as lessons and best practices, in order to increase exchange and expertise.